



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
SCHOOL OF INFANTRY (WEST)
TRAINING COMMAND
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IN REPLY REFER TO
1510
CO
3 May 17

POLICY LETTER 6-17

From: Commanding Officer
To: Distribution List

Subj: COMBAT INSTRUCTOR SCHOOL COURSE CHALLENGE

Ref: (a) ScolO P1510.1G

1. Purpose. To establish criteria and requirements for Marines to challenge Combat Instructor School.
2. Cancellation. This letter will remain in effect until revision or when indicated by appropriate authority.
3. Information. Marine Combat Instructors are vital to the process of training entry-level and advanced skill progression in the infantry military occupational specialty (MOS), as well as non-infantry Marines in basic rifleman skills. School of Infantry-West has recently received Marines who have previously earned the 0913 Combat Instructor MOS. Combat Instructor School (CIS) will provide an abbreviated CIS to refresh and recertify these Marines in the current standard operating procedures (SOPs) and command policies. The abbreviated course will serve two primary purposes; to provide each Marine the necessary skills and training updates in preparation for duty as a Combat Instructor, and to expedite the process of assigning new Combat Instructors into training battalions. This policy establishes criteria and requirements that allow a Marine to challenge the course.
4. Criteria. Any Marine that has previously completed CIS at either School of Infantry-West or East, was awarded the MOS of 0913, and had a successful tour of duty at their follow-on location is eligible to challenge CIS.
5. Requirements. The challenge course will take place in the first two weeks of the standard course. It will consist of instruction, practical application, and performance examination in the following areas:

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- a. Physical fitness test (1st class).
- b. SOP test (80%).
- c. Weapons performance examination checklists for mastery.
- d. Basic Instructor Course recertification (50 minute class).
- e. 20k hike.
- f. Exhibit the character that embodies the virtues, core values, and leadership of a Marine Combat Instructor.

Challengers may elect to postpone their evaluation on individual events if they require additional training or practical application. The challenger will coordinate with the Chief Instructor to schedule evaluations at a time that coincides with the regular course schedule. Challengers will participate in all regularly scheduled class events while awaiting their evaluation.

The Chief Instructor will be assigned as the Challenger's Squad Advisor and will be present for the evaluation of all required events. The Chief Instructor will ensure the Challenger possesses the skills required to mentor and counsel entry and advanced-level students as well as current '0913 Combat Instructors.

6. Failure. If at any time a Challenger fails a required event the Marine will be required to complete the entire course. Remediation for individual events will be granted on a case by case basis at the discretion of the Director of Combat Instructor School.

7. Administration. Challengers will provide the CIS staff with a biography and professional resume for consideration for assignment to a training battalion. The Regimental Sergeant Major will assign course challengers based off of training history, proficiency, and needs of the training Battalions.


J. C. HOLT